

REMARKS

The Official Action of 14 March 2007 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The independent claim, claim 4, has been amended to incorporate the recitations in claims 3 and 4 of the application as filed, whereby to limit the recited sulfonyl group-containing (co)polymer to a non-diene-based, sulfonyl group-containing (co)polymer which is an acryl-based, sulfonyl group-containing (co)polymer. Applicants respectfully note that the terms “acryl-based” and “diene-based” have well recognized meanings in the art, as shown for example by the recitation of these terms in **the claims** of 73 issued patents (“acryl-based”) and 297 issued patents (“diene-based”) respectively (see attached printouts showing the results of USPTO Patent Full-Text and Image Database searches for claims containing these terms). (Applicants respectfully note that, since “diene-based” has a well recognized meaning, “non-diene-based” does as well. See MPEP 2173.05(I).) In any event, the meanings of these terms is apparent from their use in the specification as filed (see specification at, e.g., page 17, line 18 to page 20, line 6).

In line with the above, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph appearing at paragraph 4 of the Official Action. As is known to those of skill in the art, and as is apparent from the examples of monomers described in the specification at page 19, an “acryl-based” (co)polymer is one that comprises a unit derived from an acryl monomer.

Since the meaning of all terms in the claim would be apparent to one of skill in the art, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are sufficiently definite to satisfy the dictates of 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112 rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by WO 01/48100. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over WO 01/48100 in view of EP 892024. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants respectfully note that the cited primary reference, WO 01/48100, was filed after November 29, 2000 and was not published in English under PCT Article 21(2) such that it has no 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) prior art date. See MPEP 706.01(f)(1). Accordingly, the reference is only citable as of its PCT publication date of July 5, 2001, which is **after** the filing dates of Applicants' Japanese priority applications. Applicants submit herewith an English translation of their first priority application to overcome the reference. See MPEP 201.15.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 11217525 in view of Sano et al. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over this combination of references further in view of EP 892024. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The amendment to the claims, which restricts them to “non-diene-based” sulfonyl group-containing (co)polymers, removes the bases for rejection over combinations comprising as primary reference, JP 11217525, which is directed to “diene-based” embodiments.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ota et al. Applicants respectfully note that Ota et al may be disqualified as a reference against the present application under the provisions of 35 USC 103(c), and the undersigned hereby makes the following statement on behalf of Applicants whereby to disqualify the reference:

"The present application and Ota et al US Patent 6,916,862 were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned the same company, Seiko Epson Corporation."

The claims stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nguyen et al in view of Sano et al or over this combination of references further in view of EP 892024. The claims also stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kurabayashi et al in view of Sano et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The claimed invention requires that the recited sulfonyl group-containing (co)polymer is present in the claimed ink composition in the form of an emulsion. This feature is not

shown or suggested in either of the cited primary references, wherein the (co)polymer that allegedly corresponds to the claimed second (co)polymer appears to encapsulate or associate with a colorant. Indeed, the Examiner has respectfully not pointed to any portion of the cited references to show or suggest this claimed feature whereby the references are respectfully incompetent to set forth even a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the invention as claimed. See MPEP 706.02(j) (“To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. . .the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.”).

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections and objections of record have been successfully traversed and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

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ACLM/"acryl based"

PAT. NO. Title

- 1 [7,255,981](#) T Mask, substrate with light reflective film, method for manufacturing light reflective film, liquid crystal display device, and electronic apparatus
- 2 [7,226,520](#) T Method for forming pattern and method for forming multilayer wiring structure by droplet discharge system
- 3 [7,218,450](#) T Light diffusing film
- 4 [7,192,621](#) T Keypad and method of separating a crosslinked cured resin layer thereof
- 5 [7,176,605](#) T Plasma display device having anisotropic thermal conduction medium
- 6 [7,173,077](#) T Aqueous glittering ink composition
- 7 [7,165,557](#) T Hair-transplanting apparatus and method and resulting hair-transplanted piece
- 8 [7,160,960](#) T Pressure sensitive adhesive composition and sheet, and adhered article
- 9 [7,122,271](#) T Battery unit and lithium secondary battery employing the same
- 10 [7,075,601](#) T Thin film transistor array for a liquid crystal display having a data line cross-connection
- 11 [7,052,784](#) T Organic electroluminescent device using a mixture of high and low molecular light-emitting substance as a light-emitting substance
- 12 [7,005,183](#) T Application sheet used for pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet for painting
- 13 [6,989,408](#) T Method for preparing acryl based impact-reinforcement
- 14 [6,969,889](#) T Wire structure, a thin film transistor substrate of using the wire structure and a method of manufacturing the same
- 15 [6,937,304](#) T Array substrate for transfective LCD device and method of fabricating the same
- 16 [6,933,043](#) T Decorative floor covering comprising polyethylene terephthalate film layer in surface layer and manufacturing method of the same

17 6,916,532 T Adhesive tape for painting

18 6,913,801 T Printing media for inkjet printer

19 6,906,331 T X-ray detector and method of fabricating therefore

20 6,876,121 T Flat oscillation motor equipped with a brush apparatus

21 6,870,198 T Organic electroluminescent device using mixture of phosphorescent material as light-emitting substance

22 6,850,294 T Liquid crystal display

23 6,836,012 T Semiconductor package and method of manufacturing the same

24 6,824,845 T Multicolor image-forming material and method for forming multicolor image

25 6,797,407 T Metallic plate material for electric/electronic instrument and electric/electronic instrument using same

26 6,776,745 T Toner supply roller

27 6,767,435 T Bright surface structure and a manufacturing method thereof

28 6,744,486 T Liquid crystal display device and method of fabricating the same

29 6,740,354 T Method of manufacturing thermal transfer film for forming three dimensional patterns through dissolution processes

30 6,737,753 T Barrier stack

31 6,737,653 T X-ray detector and method of fabricating therefore

32 6,733,863 T Optical-use adhesive film and roll thereof

33 6,674,155 T Chip carrier film, method of manufacturing the chip carrier film and liquid crystal display using the chip carrier film

34 6,674,007 T Shielding for multicore shielded wire

35 6,654,076 T Transflective liquid crystal display device and method of fabricating the same

36 6,620,655 T Array substrate for transflective LCD device and method of fabricating the same

37 6,569,919 T Composition exhibiting reversible color change and exterior parts for clock using the same

38 6,552,769 T Method for fabricating liquid crystal display panel with sealant on both sides of a peripheral groove

39 6,549,251 T LCD having barrier layer in same plane as gate electrode and method of fabricating

40 6,545,827 T Optical sheet

41 6,536,227 T Direct cooling type refrigerator

42 6,534,270 T Biochip and method for fabricating the same

43 6,531,208 T Dissolution type thermal transfer film for three dimensional patterns and method for manufacturing the same

44 6,521,337 T Adhesive tape for painting

45 6,504,096 T Semiconductor device, methods of production of the same, and method of mounting a component

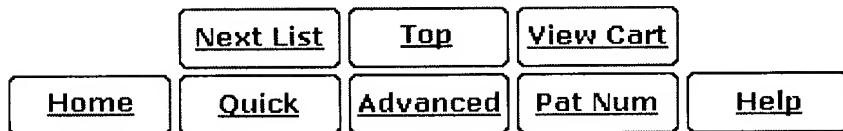
46 6,475,714 T Image forming material

47 6,458,467 T Optical-use adhesive film and roll thereof

48 6,456,355 T Liquid crystal panel having a plurality of ribs for a liquid crystal display device

49 6,444,267 T Method for manufacturing gravure-transfer-coated steel plate

50 6,406,969 T Method of manufacturing a thin film transistor array substrate



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ACLM/"diene based"

PAT. NO. Title

- 1 [7,262,254](#) T Tire with low volatile alcohol emission rubber tread with compositional limitations
- 2 [7,250,465](#) T Rubber composition containing block copolymer and tire having component thereof
- 3 [7,250,203](#) T Airsleeve
- 4 [7,249,621](#) T Rubber composition and tire with component of diene-based elastomer composition with corncob granule dispersion
- 5 [7,247,669](#) T Rubber prepared with precipitated silica and carbon black pellet composites of controlled hardness and tire with component derived therefrom
- 6 [7,214,731](#) T Tire with low hydrocarbon emission rubber combination of tread and sidewall components with compositional limitations
- 7 [7,201,641](#) T Polishing body
- 8 [7,183,347](#) T Dip moldings, composition for dip molding and method for producing dip moldings
- 9 [7,179,866](#) T Vibration damping rubber composition
- 10 [7,163,975](#) T Tire with compound of rubber composition comprised of silanol and/or siloxy functionalized elastomer and silica
- 11 [7,156,137](#) T Preparation of starch reinforced rubber and use thereof in tires
- 12 [7,137,423](#) T Tire with component comprised of amine functionalized styrene/diene copolymer elastomer, silanol functionalized carbon black and coupling agent
- 13 [7,134,468](#) T Pneumatic tire having an innerliner comprised of butyl rubber and dispersion of corncob granules
- 14 [7,131,474](#) T Tire with rubber tread of load bearing central and lateral zones
- 15 [7,122,586](#) T Preparation of silica-rich rubber composition by sequential mixing with maximum mixing temperature limitations

16 7,117,911 T Pneumatic tire having run flat capability

17 7,101,922 T Method for preparing elastomer/silica composite

18 7,087,660 T Preparation of components and articles with directed high frequency energy heated silica-rich rubber components containing high softening point polymer and sulfur curative

19 7,071,251 T Tire with component comprised of rubber composite of styrene/butadiene elastomer containing pendent silanol and/or siloxy groups

20 7,045,201 T Starch-modified aqueous adhesive dip, treated yarns therewith and tire having component of rubber composition containing such treated yarns

21 7,040,366 T Tubeless pneumatic tire with carcass having butyl-based inner topping rubber layer

22 7,019,084 T Tire with rubber composition

23 7,015,272 T Rubber with polyethylene and phenylene bismaleimide and tire with component thereof

24 7,015,259 T Clear ink composition, ink set, and method for producing inkjet record

25 7,011,891 T Rubber product surface treating method

26 7,001,946 T Tire with tread of natural rubber-rich rubber composition

27 6,998,448 T Tire with tread of CIS 1,4-polybutadiene rich rubber composition which contains a functional styrene/butadiene elastomer, silica and coupling agent

28 6,994,137 T Tire with component of carbon black rich rubber composition which contains alkylphenoxy poly (alkyleneoxy) alkanol

29 6,972,307 T Rubber composition containing nanoscaled zinc oxide particles

30 6,962,181 T Pneumatic tire having built-in sealant layer and preparation thereof

31 6,959,744 T Tire with rubber tread of diverse zoned rubber compositions

32 6,959,743 T Tire with silica-rich tread cap layer and carbon black-rich supporting transition zone of intermediate and base layers

33 6,956,093 T Preparation of syndiotactic polybutadiene, rubber composition and tire with rubber component

34 6,932,132 T Tire with rubber sidewall containing trans polybutadiene and brominated copolymer

35 6,932,130 T Tire wheel assembly

36 6,927,255 T Rubber composition

37 6,913,329 T Endless rubber track having guide lugs with guide lug support layer, and vehicle containing such track

38 6,911,253 T Porous resin film

39 6,906,129 T Polymer scale preventive agent

40 6,894,103 T Electropolymerization modified carbon black and articles including tires having at least one component containing such modified carbon black

41 6,887,929 T Resin composition and golf ball

42 6,884,468 T Method of making a paper coating using a blend of a vinyl aromatic-acrylic polymer dispersion with a vinyl aromatic-diene polymer dispersion

43 6,878,760 T Preparation of starch reinforced rubber and use thereof in tires

44 6,861,462 T Nanocomposite formed in situ within an elastomer and article having component comprised thereof

45 6,858,665 T Preparation of elastomer with exfoliated clay and article with composition thereof

46 6,855,034 T Polishing pad for semiconductor wafer and laminated body for polishing of

semiconductor wafer equipped with the same as well as method for polishing of semiconductor wafer

47 [6,852,785](#) **T** Vulcanizable elastomeric compositions for use as tire treads

48 [6,848,974](#) **T** Polishing pad for semiconductor wafer and polishing process using thereof

49 [6,838,538](#) **T** Hydrogenated modified polymer, process for producing the same and composition containing the same

50 [6,838,511](#) **T** Tire with configured rubber sidewall designed to be ground-contacting reinforced with carbon black, starch and silica

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